

REMARKS

The present response is filed with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE), and is to the Office Action mailed in the above-referenced case on February 4, 2004, made Final. Claims 1-14, 16-21, 24, 26, 27 and 29-32 are presented below for examination. Claim 24 is rejected due to informalities. In response applicant herein amends the language of the claim, replacing "the circuitry" with "circuitry", where applicable, thereby overcoming the objection.

Claims 10-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite, and claims 11-14 are also rejected in virtue of their dependency to claim 1. In response, applicant herein amends the language of claim 10 to recite "into circuitry of the at least two ports", thereby correcting the antecedent basis for "the port" in line 12 of the claim to overcome the rejection.

Claims 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Takahashi. Claims 24, 26-27 and 29-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harriman in view of Takahashi. Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harriman/Takahashi as applied to claim 27, and further in view of Teraslinna. The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-14, 21 and 23 recite allowable subject matter.

Applicant has again carefully studied the prior art references provided by the Examiner, and the Examiner's objections, rejections and statements of the instant Office Action. In response, applicant herein graciously accepts the allowable subject matter as kindly indicated by the Examiner for claims 1-14, 21 and 23.

Pertaining to the allowable subject matter, the Examiner has stated that the prior art of record fails to teach "data packets assigned for multicasting arrive at the port on the egress path and are diverted to the multicast-capable component, wherein the packets are replicated and/or readdressed and output to the ingress path into the port", which is considered by the Examiner as allowable in combination with other limitations recited in the claims.

Applicant's independent claims 16, 24 and 27 recite the multicast-capable data router and method for multicasting, respectively, in accordance with the limitations of independent claims 1 and 10. Applicant herein amends the language of claims 16, 24 and 27 to also recite that the data packets assigned for multicasting arrive at the port on the egress path, and the replicated or readdressed packets are output to the ingress path into the port.

As stated by the Examiner, the prior art of record fails to teach the above specific and allowable subject matter now recited in independent claims 16, 24 and 27.

Independent claim 16 is therefore now patentable over the art of Takahashi, claims 24 and 27 are now patentable over Harriman in view of Takahashi.

In view of the subject matter indicated as allowable by the Examiner for claims 1-14, 21 and 23, and the amendments herein made to the independent claims reciting said allowable subject matter, depending claims 17-20, 26, and 29-32 are patentable on their own merits, or at least as depended from a patentable claim.

As all of the claims are now patentable over the prior art presented, applicant respectfully requests that the above claims be reconsidered, the objection and rejections be withdrawn and that the case be passed quickly to issue. If any fees are due beyond fees paid with this amendment, authorization is made to deduct those fees from deposit account 50-0534. If any time extension is needed beyond any extension requested with this amendment, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully Submitted,
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